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THE DISASTER AT SAMOA.

Scene, Samoa, a lovely island in the South Pacific. The harbor is made by the outcropping of a coral reef. Christian missions had been unusually successful for many years. But war, said to be stimulated by representatives of Christian nations, broke out. One king is dethroned and banished. A part of the people resist the enthronement of his successor. England, Germany and America hasten warships to the scene. A battle ensues and many natives and some Germans are killed. The ships bristling with guns are in the harbor. The three nations jealously watch each other with many naval growls. A commission is called to Berlin to settle the quarrel as between the three civilized nations.

In the meantime and while the ships wait a signal to fight or not; while thousands of far-off friends, relatives and countrymen, strain their ears to catch the news and newspapers boast of the strong, naval forces displayed, a storm, unprecedented in fierceness sweeps the vessels from their anchors, piles one on the other, or upon the beach, drowns one hundred and fifty men and officers and extinguishes as with its breath all that represents the pomp and power of two nations and the third manages to run away! What a commentary on man's boasted power! It recalled the sublime lines of Henry Kirke White:

Howl, winds of night, your force combine
Without his high behest;
Ye shall not on the mountain pine
Disturb the sparrow's nest.

God swept them away. The wind is his servant.

DIARY OF THE SECRETARY.

Tuesday, February 12. In company with President Tobey at Brookline, Mass., I enjoyed an interview with Mrs. James B. Miles, the widow of a former honored secretary. We will receive at some time certain papers that will illustrate the work of the Society during the busy life of Dr. Miles, so suddenly terminated in 1875, after four and a half years of devoted and fruitful service. Called also on Mrs. E. T. Dow in her new and beautiful home, and learned of her unabated interest in the work of the Society.

Wednesday, February 13. Attended and addressed the annual meeting of the Congregational Church, Rockport, Mass., of which I was pastor, 1879-84, and which contributed to make me a life member of American Peace Society in 1884.

Saturday, February 16. Heard of the death of Isaac Denny Balch, at Orange, N. J. He was my college classmate and a cherished friend all the years subsequent to our graduation in 1856. I will never see his pure, manly face again on earth. But he will always be to me the clean, sweet, high-minded boy who came from Newburyport, Mass., to Bowdoin College in 1852. How sincere, generous and chivalric he was! It is a pleasure to know that he kept unsullied the friendships of youth and in utter unselfishness discharged the duties of high public trusts under the United States Government in the city of New York.

Monday, February 18. Sent off several petitions to Congress containing a large number of names, praying for an Anglo-American treaty of arbitration.

Monday, February 25. Had the (to me now) rare

privilege of hearing Joseph Cook address his immense and intelligent audience in Tremont Temple. His eloquent presentation of the Christian view of reforms such as Temperance and Peace are always refreshing and uplifting. To-day was no exception. This remarkable discussion of topics, at once popular and abstruse, has gone on fourteen years! Has it a parallel in the history of any man or city? If so we do not know the man nor the place.

Wednesday, February 27. Prof. Bryce's book, which I have just bought and which is entitled "The American Commonwealth," deeply interests me. It is by an English scholar and publicist, but is a better summary and a fuller and exacter treatment of the institutions, parties, constitutions and government of the United States than I have ever read. Its great amount of matter and high price (\$6.00) will prevent its being read as widely as it should be. He touches no subject without enlightening his readers with regard to it.

Monday, March 4. Inauguration of President Harrison at Washington. A brief meeting occupied by prayer for the incoming President held in our building, from 11:30 to 12:30, was deeply and tenderly interesting. May our prayers be answered, especially do we cry, "Give peace, O Lord, in our time." Arlington, Mass., where my home is, voted by one hundred and seventeen majority not to license liquor selling. But how shall Boston and other great cities be relieved of the burden of drink, made even heavier by the fact, that it is difficult for drinkers to obtain liquor in the no-license suburban towns? The entire State is to vote on the question of Constitutional and State prohibition, April 22. Whether a majority of the people vote for it or not changes no principle. The curtailment and final abolition of liquor-selling may have to wait in certain localities. But the effort to suppress its evils is no more to be abandoned than the effort to abolish war or to Christianize the world.

Monday, March 18. Read a paper printed on page 40 in this paper on "The New Sympathy of Nations," at a meeting of the Congregational Club of New York of which Mr. Roswell Smith is President. (See page 36.)

My paper was followed by an unwritten address of great lucidity and beauty of style by Professor Goldwin Smith of Toronto, Canada. As I took few notes I can only give some of his points. (1) He was convinced by his own observation and frequent correspondence with some of the clearest headed and most conservative men of Europe that a great and terrible war is at hand made inevitable by the immense armaments and the intense strain which these put upon the governments and people. (2) He expressed satisfaction as an Englishman at certain very kindly expressions towards his country in Mr. Howard's address. He could assure the audience that among no class in England was there anything but a feeling of the utmost friendship towards the United States. He could not but contrast the words of the evening, however, with the frequent outbursts of ill feeling towards England, which he read in the American newspapers, arising in part he did not doubt from the special devotees of the day we celebrate (St. Patrick's) or a desire of politicians to win the votes of England's enemies.

Referring to war in general he remarked: (1) That it had lost much of its picturesque and romantic charm. Iron-clad gunboats are not graceful, great guns are not beautiful. Science has reduced killing in war to a question of machinery, and the ancient dash, the personal brav-

ery, the pitting of hand to hand, soul to soul, courage to courage in deadly but fascinating contests for victory are at an end.

(2) Still war seems inevitable so long as mankind is unchanged. Arbitration is the modern remedy and justly regarded as a cheap and harmless substitute for the expense and savageness of the old system. But Arbitration has its limits.

(1) No nation will submit its honor to Arbitration. If its manhood has been insulted and outraged or invaded it cannot leave the question to be settled by any but itself.

(2) The savageness of war is no longer what it was even one hundred years ago, when the wounded were left to suffer and die, when "no quarter" was a frequent cry by the conquerors of ships and cities, when a brutalized soldiery were expected to let loose all the demons of lust, theft and ravaging upon the non-combatants of a conquered town. *Indeed war has become a school of humanity and benevolence.* Professor Smith mentioned his own observations in our Civil War, of kindness to wounded enemies and starving prisoners, and cited the work of the Red Cross and other associations upon modern battlefields and in hospitals. (See page 36 for comments.)

(3) History would be impoverished and the sum of heroic manliness would be lessened if we should abolish war. With all its horrors and cruelties it has developed noble characters—really great men without whom the world would be poorer. Among Christian soldiers he mentioned Gardner and Havelock and Vicars as examples, said no doubt our own armies furnished similar examples during the Civil War. Horrible as war is he did not think it altogether bad, at least not the worst of calamities. Death is not the worst thing that can happen. Honor is worth more than life. So is liberty, justice; the rescue of the innocent and oppressed. "Peace at any price" is too costly.

Professor Smith was followed by Rev. E. H. Byington, D.D., of Worcester, Mass., who gave some of the evidences that mankind are, on the whole, tending towards peaceful methods of settling international disputes. Our century is distinguished by this humane and anti-war tendency as seen in many arbitrations and in the progress of public opinion. Rev. J. L. Stoddard of Jersey City was pleased at the evidence adduced that the war spirit and method were subsiding. He mentioned the socialistic and anarchist agitations of our country as the most dangerous thing we have to deal with and the economic questions that underlie them as a prolific source of mischief.

Professor Smith spoke again. He mentioned the freedom of trade as a hopeful sign of international comity and regarded commerce as the great civilizer and humanizer of the world. He had seen three men who had seen Napoleon I. One had said to the great Emperor at St. Helena, "It must be some relief to you not to be so intensely occupied as in your great campaigns."

The old warrior's eye kindled at the recollection and he seemed to feel a strong desire again to rush like an old war horse to battle. The war spirit showed itself as in no way extinct. I was courteously invited to speak in closing and endeavored to point out the fallacies of that reasoning which makes war a necessity and especially that which condones it as a school of benevolence. If there be a thing worse than war, the mere chance of destroying that thing does not justify the essential wickedness of the ancient and present war system and method. To commit one sin to cure another is an immorality.

Thursday, April 11. A farewell service with two missionaries, one Mr. Rand, about to return to Ponape, Caroline Islands, Micronesia, and the other, Dr. Constantine, going back to Beyroot, Turkey, to resume labors put forth for thirty years in behalf of his Greek countrymen. He told us of his early contact with the missionary Dr. King at Athens, his conversion in New York city, his education in our best schools and his spiritual education in the school of Christ, by means of disappointment as to quick success, bereavement in the death of a wife to whom he owed so much of whatever he afterward accomplished; and other methods of divine discipline and revelation. "He has got through the shell to the meat of life," exclaimed a hearer. Mr. Rand showed that the recent convulsion in the Caroline Islands had opened the way for the Gospel and his heart was filled with joy and thankfulness as he returns to his work.

Sunday, April 14. A most sunny Sabbath on the hills of New Hampshire at East Derry. I enjoyed preaching in peace from the pulpit of Rev. H. M. Penniman, the guest of Mr. Jonathan D. Sanders. I enjoyed teaching a large and intelligent class of young ladies in the Sunday School and a Missionary Concert carried on by the young people in the evening. It was well attended. The subject was China.

Monday, April 15. A crowded Temperance Meeting at 10 A. M., Pilgrim Hall. Addresses were made by Miss E. S. Tobey, President of W. C. T. U. of Mass. and Dr. A. J. Gordon, Baptist, Dr. Shinn, Episcopalian, Dr. Dorchester, Methodist, also Mrs. Lathrop of Michigan, and Mrs. Hoffman of St. Louis.

The license of brothel camps to accompany every large division of the British Army in India was referred to by Dr. Gordon and called to my mind what a brother minister said to me this morning about the absolute necessity of the 60,000 British troops in India for the preservation of order and the progress of civilization and missions!

Tuesday, April 16. At home. The two men of all others whom I wished to see and greet in England have died within the year during which I hope to visit that country. They were John Bright and Henry Richard. Mr. Gladstone cannot long remain. Neither of these typical Englishmen has visited America. All of them are in sympathy with American ideas and life. One of the pleasantest of our few pictures outside the albums is one which rests on the piano of our sitting room. It represents John Bright with his little grandson leaning upon his knee. It was the gift of a friend who lives in Rochdale, England, Mr. Bright's own home, and it is said to be very life-like. In the Study, another and companion portrait is that of Henry Richards which looks down from a little higher point. Mr. Gladstone looks at them from the top of the revolving book-case and on the walls are of course several portraits of American soldiers, statesmen and poets, living and dead.

Sunday, April 21. At Keene, N. H., attending the funeral of Mr. E. A. Webb, at his former home, at 3.30 P. M. His whole active life was devoted to the cause of Peace. Preached at Baptist church in the evening for Mr. Webb's pastor, Rev. Dr. Eaton, on "Crises in the lives of persons and of nations."

I sometimes feel the thread of life is slender,
And soon with me the labor will be wrought;
Then grows my heart to other hearts more tender.
The time,
The time is short.